

REV. LEA D. BROWN  
THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH  
OF SAN FRANCISCO  
150 EUREKA STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114

(415) 565-0824  
LBROWN@SFBAR.ORG

6771 '99 JUL 15 11:44

July 12, 1999

Dockets Management Branch  
FDA  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is concerning Docket # 98N-1038. I am writing to voice my strong objection to the FDA's approval of food irradiation in the United States. From what I have read and heard in the mainstream media, there are many corporations that would have me believe that irradiation of food has become our best hope (and perhaps our only hope) for a clean and safe food supply in the United States, and it would appear that the FDA is more than willing to do whatever it is these corporations think best.

This is what I do believe about food irradiation:

-That food irradiation has recently become seen as "necessary", when in fact, all that is really necessary is for the food industry to be held truly accountable for producing products through proper (although sometimes less profitable) sanitation, packaging, storage and preparation. The three largest meat-processing corporations that control 80% of the business would rather irradiate than clean up their production system, simply because it is cheaper.

-That when food is irradiated the radiation breaks up the molecular structure of the food and creates a whole new set of chemicals, such as benzene, formaldehyde and many other known mutagens and carcinogens.

-Irradiation kills vitamins, friendly bacteria and enzymes, basically rendering the food "dead" and therefore useless to the human body. In addition, some of the friendly bacteria that is killed produces odors indicating spoilage and some friendly bacteria that naturally control the growth of harmful bacteria. It can leave still dangerous bacteria on the food, allowing people to still become sick.

-Irradiating microorganisms like E. coli and salmonella may give rise to even more dangerous, radiation-resistant strains of bacteria.

-Food irradiation will have disastrous effects on the environment.

98N 1038

C 3755

I believe that the real issues concerning irradiation are the multi-national corporations making billions of dollars by extending the shelf life of food, the millions of dollars the processors would save by not having to "clean up their acts", and the U.S. government wanting to "dump" radioactive waste into our food and into our natural surroundings. In short, I am writing to request that food irradiation be banned in the United States, and that food processing corporations be held accountable for producing food that is clean and safe through proper sanitation, preparation, and inspection. Until this happens, I also request that all irradiated food be marked clearly with a symbol that indicates the food was treated with radioactive waste.

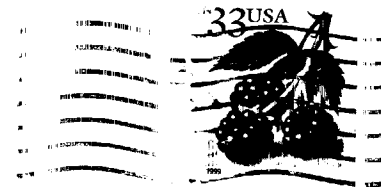
In the meantime, I will continue to buy organic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lea D. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Rev. Lea D. Brown

Brown  
4621 18th St.  
SF CA 94114



Dockets Management Branch  
FDA  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

20A57/0003

